

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 4922 號二十二百九十四第 日十三月六閏年西癸未同

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, 22ND AUGUST, 1873.

五拜
號二十二月八英 港香

PRICE \$21 PER MONTH.

Arrivals.

Aug. 21, TIGRE, French str., 3,017, Le-
coine, Shanghai 17th—August, Gene-
ral.—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.
Aug. 21, YANKEE, Brit. str., 782, corner
from Canton, General.—SIEMSEN &
Co.
Aug. 21, YESSO, Brit. str., 615, Ashton, Foo-
chow 18th—August, Amy 19th, and
Swatow 20th, General.—D. LAPRAIK &
Co.
Aug. 21, CONVENT, Siamese bark, 384, Kramer,
Saijon 11th August, and Cape St.
James 14th, 1,000 pieces rice, and 1,000
pieces fish, CHINESE.
Aug. 21, NINA, str., 1,200, Samat,
Yokohama, 13th August, General.—
MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

Departures.

Aug. 21, Port S. CAMOS, for a Cruise.
Aug. 21, NOVA, str., for Swatow.
Aug. 21, CHINA, str., for Singapore, &c.
Aug. 21, ALTONA, str., for Saigon.

Clearances.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE,
AUGUST 20TH.

Colombo, for Whampoa.
Caroline, for Hamburg.

Mary Belle Roberts, for Iloilo.

Norseman, for Newchwang.

China, str., for Singapore, &c.

Treasures, str., for Singapore.

United Service, str., for Saigon.

Altona, str., for Saigon.

Passengers.

Per Tigre, str., from Shanghai.

Mrs. Howard and servant, Mitchell, Gar-
nier, Virtuous, Chinese; Greeley, Oloy and
Froehly, and 21 Chinese.

Per Yesso, str., from East Coast.

Messrs. J. Lapraik, T. de Silver, Bouffay and
Capt. Johnson, and 365 Chinese.

Per Convent, from Saigon:

4 Chinese.

Per NINA, str., from Yokohama:

For Hongkong.—3 Chinese deck.

For Mar-

sailles.—M. Rodriguez y Manzo, Minister for

Spain, and 1 servant.

Reports.

The French steamship *Yesso* reports left Yo-

kohow on 13th August, had light airs and

was buried throughout.

The British steamship *Yesso* reports left

Foochow on 18th August, Amy on the 19th,

and Swatow on the 20th, had light winds and

fine weather throughout the passage. In Foo-

chow, the steamship *Concord* and *Cyrene*,

or *Amoy*, the steamship *Amy* and *Formosa*,

or *H.M.S. Hornet*. In Swatow, the steamer

Oasis and H.M.C. gun-boat *Ling-jeung*.

The Siamese bark *Conte* reports left Saigon

on 11th August, experienced light winds.

On the 13th, the bark experienced violent

wind and rain for three days; passed an Eng-

lish ship bound up the China Sea, name un-

known, in consequence of Murray's signals

being shown.

Vessel Expected at Hongkong.

(Arrived late.)

Yacht Name. From. Date.

REEDER, John. Foochow. Mob. 4

VITAL, M. Foochow. Mob. 21

WEEVING BALE, Shikoku. April 24

GRIFFITHS, London. Mob. 24

MIRELLA, Cardiff. April 24

LADY BLESSINGTON, Penzance. May 1

STAR OF CHINA, Newport. May 2

MERSON, Newcastle. May 9

NICOLAI (s), London. May 10

EUGENIO, Penzance. May 10

GUNNEWICK, London. May 12

J. C. STONE, Dundee. May 15

ARDITH, Dundee. May 15

SAPPHIRE, Penzance. May 15

ZAMBIA (s), Glasgow. May 15

AUREOLA, Cardiff. May 19

RINGLEADER, Cardiff. May 23

MOSES DAY, Cardiff. May 26

LABRATOR, Newcastle. May 28

MCNEAR, Panarach. June 8

ALBERT VICTOR, London. June 10

City of Foochow. Cardiff. June 21

Auction Sales To-day.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

At 11 A.M.,
About 200 bags Edge.

At 12 noon,
Sundries Goods, &c.

THE GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL,
CHICAGO.

THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE HOTEL
IN THE WORLD.

THE Lessee (well-known as the Proprietors
of the SHERMAN HOUSE, before its destruc-

tion in the memorable Conflagration of
October 8th and 9th, 1871,) take pleasure in
announcing the completion of this new enter-

prise, which is now open under their personal
management for the accommodation of guests.

GAGE BROS. & RICE,
Lessors for Twenty Years.

1275 Chicago, June 1st, 1873.

NOTICE.

HONGKONG FIER AND GODOWN COM-
PANY, LIMITED.

THE business of the above Company will be
CLOSED from the 1st August proxim.

until further notice.

By order, MICHAEL MOSS,

Secretary.

1231 Hongkong, 20th July, 1873.

NOTICE.

STEAM TO SOUTHAMPTON via CANAL.

THE BOHARA, conveying the mails from

Hongkong on 30th instant, will proceed to

Southampton via the Suez Canal.

A. MOYER,
Sup. Agent.

1270 Hongkong, 7th August, 1873.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

The undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-

pared to accept risks against Fire, subject to a

commission of 20 per cent.

SIEMSEN & Co.

Agents.

43 Hongkong, 16th November, 1873.

TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSUR-
ANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

The undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-

pared to accept risks against Fire, subject to a

commission of 20 per cent.

SIEMSEN & Co.

Agents.

4m 39 Hongkong, 16th November, 1873.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY, LIMITED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE YEAR 1872.

SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company

are requested to furnish the undersigned

with a list of their Contributions for the year

ended 31st December, 1872, in order that the

Distribution of Twenty per cent (20%) of

the Net Profits reserved for Contributors, may be

arranged. Returns not rendered prior to the

31st October next, will be adjusted by the Com-

pany, and no claims or alterations will subse-

quently be admitted.

JAS. B. COUGHTRE, Secretary.

4m 1082 Hongkong, 1st July, 1873.

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THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY

For 1873.

NOW READY.

MIS Work, now in the ELEVENTH year of its existence, is ready for delivery.

It has been compiled and printed at the Daily Press Office, as usual, from the best and most authentic sources, and no pains have been spared to make the work complete in all respects.

In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of the CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1873 has been further augmented by a

CHROMO-LITHOGRAPH

OF THE

FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF SHANGHAI.

In addition to a Chromo-Lithograph of the

NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT THE PEAK;

also of

THE VARIOUS HOUSE-FLAGS (Designed expressly for this Work)

MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN,

and the

THE COASTS OF CHINA;

besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending to make this work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

The Directory is published in Two Volumes, complete at 35; or with Lists of Residents, Port Directories, Maps, &c., at 32.

Orders for Copies may be sent to the Daily Press Office or to the following Agents:

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Hankow & Tientsin.....HALL & HOYT

Hainan and Kiao-kiang.....HALL & HOYT

Nanking and Tientsin.....THE C. & J. TRADING CO.

Takohama.....MESSRS. JANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Mr. E. J. MCINTOSH, Japan Goods

Office.....Messrs. L. D. LOZAGA & Co.

Singapore.....R. RIMINO & Co.

Singapore.....Straits Times Office.

Calcutta.....Bengaluru Office.

London.....Mr. F. ALGAR, Clement's Lane.

GRO. STREET, 30, Cornhill.

Messrs. THURNER & Co.

San Francisco.....Mr. L. P. FISHER, 21, Merchants' Exchange.

New York.....MESSRS. M. M. BRIGGS & Co.

Boston.....Mr. F. G. FISHER, 18, Cornhill.

Boston.....HALL & HOLTZARD KELLY

Co., Shanghai.

London and Hongkong.....HALL & HOLTZARD KELLY

& Co., Shanghai.

Peking.....H. & C. CO., Shanghai.

printing the Estimates, say, a fortnight or three weeks sooner, but a very bad reason for refusing to the non-official members the opportunity for their investigation. If there is any necessity for the haste which the Acting Colonial-Secretary urged as a reason for hurrying through the Estimates, those who have been charged with their preparation are called upon to explain the delay which has taken place. It would at least have been courteous that a few words should have been said upon this point, which clearly underlies the whole difficulty. But instead of this, it is to be regretted that the Acting Colonial-Secretary seized upon the idea of bantering the non-official members for not taking more pains in investigating the tardily produced Estimates. His statement that one of the non-official members would not look into them for a couple of hours was no less contrary to fact than to courtesy and common sense. It is well known that the non-official members have often done good service to the public by the most careful investigation of the accounts, when occasion appeared to require it. But, apart from this, whether one official or all the official members took one hour or fifty hours to look into the accounts, has nothing whatever to do with the duty of the Government to afford the proper opportunity for doing so. This is not a mere social matter between the Acting Colonial-Secretary and the members of Council, but a public matter between the Government and the whole Community. It is the bounden duty of the local Government to satisfy the public that a reasonable opportunity has been afforded for investigation of the Estimates which the public has to pay, before they are passed, and this was the only point to which it was in accordance with the dignity of the Acting Colonial-Secretary to address himself. It is to be regretted that he did not see fit to meet the question more fully in Council; but it may be hoped that his answer to the Hon. Mr. Price's letter, in which that gentleman points out that it is the definite rule that the Estimates should be brought forward in the month of June, will once for all settle the question whether that rule is or is not to be adopted in Hongkong. If not, the sooner one which will meet the public requirements is promulgated, the better.

MR. MALET'S REPORT ON THE CHINA TRADE.

(From our London Correspondent.)

From the elaborate and comprehensive Customs returns published by Mr. Hart, and the very able remarks which our Consuls at the various ports append to these returns in the Report annually sent to the Colonial Office, one might easily assume a summary of the foreign trade with China from 1862 to 1871, based on these statistics, issued from the British Legation at Peking, which would be a paper of much interest. I must say, however, that I was extremely disappointed after perusing the Report, lately presented to Parliament, entitled "Report of Mr. Malet, H.M. Secretary of Legation, upon the fluctuations of Foreign Trade" between the years above-mentioned.

The Report consists of an octavo pamphlet of twelve pages, printed in large type, with very ample margins. This space includes two dispatches from Mr. Wade, a prologue and epilogue, both bearing the same date. In the first, Mr. Wade remarks that "he does not believe the trade in specie or bullion is represented in this Report," and in the last anticipates the objection that may be urged against the tonnage returns put forward on the ground that they are "swelled by the frequent re-entry of the same vessels, to wit, steamers, coasting smacks and the like," by declaring that these are "the chief importers of the imports brought to China in British shipping."

The balance of trade is a subject which appears Mr. Wade is entirely oblivious of. He should know that during some seasons specie is largely exported from China, whilst at other seasons it is largely imported. It seems to me that any Report of the fluctuations of trade for a number of years which does not contain this information, is very like a representation of the tragedy of "Hamlet" the prince omitted. If I am right, it would just as be cynical for the manager of a theatre who might produce such a defective representation, to express a doubt as to whether there was or was not such an omission, as it is for Mr. Wade to express a doubt as to whether the Report he forwards includes or excludes treasure.

As for the tonnage returns, the re-entries speak of not only to vessels trading on the coast, but, if I am not very much mistaken, to steamers running on the Yangtze and Canton rivers.

Some for Mr. Wade. When Mr. Malet's figures are examined, they present not only inconsistencies, but palpable errors. For instance, we all know that the Messageries Maritimes despatch twenty-six steamers for China annually, and the same number from China—this is to say, for the purposes of Mr. Malet's tables, fifty-two steamers per annum—and it is equally notorious that these steamers convey large and valuable cargoes to Marseilles. Yet France is omitted entirely in the list of countries trading to China! It is true the Continent of Europe is down for £1,383,992, (import and export) it is observed, but that cannot possibly include France.

Again, it is equally well-known that the export of Opium from India is exclusively to China, with the exception of a mere trifling. By the plan hitherto adopted, the official members have been placed at a very great advantage over the non-official members, as representatives of the public, to be informed on all matters connected with the finances of the Colony. Even in Crown Colonies, the principle that the public who pay the money should have control over the expenditure has never been for a single moment questioned. On the contrary, we have found that the SECRETARY OF STATE has more than once pointed out want of regularity in regard to financial matters, both here and in Singapore. There can be no doubt, therefore, that the desire of the non-official members to have reasonable time for studying the accounts will be at once complied with, should the matter be referred to the Colonial Office.

The complaints which have been made have not been without very good cause. By the plan hitherto adopted, the official members have been placed at a very great advantage over the non-official members, in the discussion of the Estimates. The Estimates are in preparation perhaps for three months before they are finally decided upon. During that period, the officials are able to make themselves acquainted with every detail, and have thus an admirable start over the non-officials, even if the latter received the accounts in reasonable time before the meeting. The advantage thus gained is greatly enhanced by the explanatory address ordinarily made on laying the Estimates upon the table. The view which the Government wishes to be adopted, is set forth at once, with scarcely a chance of its being relented, should it be erroneous. It was not surprising, therefore, that the Hon. Mr. WENTWELL should, at the last meeting of the Council, have strongly suggested that it would be better for the non-official members to have the accounts first, and the explanation of the Acting Colonial-Secretary afterwards.

This very sensible suggestion at once raised a considerable amount of feeling. His Excellency the Governor, not hesitating by his manner, to show that he was not pleased by the polite refusal of the non-official members to hear arguments before facts. With, however, the good sense which usually characterizes his action under such circumstances, he refrained from pushing forward the matter of the explanation, but he nevertheless insisted that the bill for passing the Estimates should be read for the first time, and that they should be brought on for discussion on a week's adjournment.

The chief ground which was alleged for hurrying on the Estimates in this manner was that it was absolutely necessary that they should arrive home in time for the SECRETARY OF STATE to peruse them, and return them before the commencement of the Hongkong financial year. That the Estimates, thus finally approved, should be in hand at that time is beyond dispute; but we venture to think that it is an excellent reason for

printing the Estimates, say, a fortnight or three weeks sooner, but a very bad reason for refusing to the non-official members the opportunity for their investigation. If there is any necessity for the haste which the Acting Colonial-Secretary urged as a reason for hurrying through the Estimates, those who have been charged with their preparation are called upon to explain the delay which has taken place. It would at least have been courteous that a few words should have been said upon this point, which clearly underlies the whole difficulty. But instead of this, it is to be regretted that the Acting Colonial-Secretary seized upon the idea of bantering the non-official members for not taking more pains in investigating the tardily produced Estimates. His statement that one of the non-official members would not look into them for a couple of hours was no less contrary to fact than to courtesy and common sense. It is well known that the non-official members have often done good service to the public by the most careful investigation of the accounts, when occasion appeared to require it. But, apart from this, whether one official or all the official members took one hour or fifty hours to look into the accounts, has nothing whatever to do with the duty of the Government to afford the proper opportunity for doing so. This is not a mere social matter between the Acting Colonial-Secretary and the members of Council, but a public matter between the Government and the whole Community. It is the bounden duty of the local Government to satisfy the public that a reasonable opportunity has been afforded for investigation of the Estimates which the public has to pay, before they are passed, and this was the only point to which it was in accordance with the dignity of the Acting Colonial-Secretary to address himself. It is to be regretted that he did not see fit to meet the question more fully in Council; but it may be hoped that his answer to the Hon. Mr. Price's letter, in which that gentleman points out that it is the definite rule that the Estimates should be brought forward in the month of June, will once for all settle the question whether that rule is or is not to be adopted in Hongkong. If not, the sooner one which will meet the public requirements is promulgated, the better.

We are informed by Messrs. Hall, Pardon & Co. that we were misinformed with reference to the former value of their property sold on Wednesday, as stated in yesterday's issue, and that they never considered the value of it to be over \$25,000, and during the last five years have not valued it over \$30,000.

MANNE MAGISTRATES' COURT.

August 21st.

BEFORE A. LETTER, Esq., ACTING HARBOUR MASTER.

THE "RELIABLE."

Hony Nequa, chief steward of the Belgian steamer N. L. S., charged Louis de Sweet, the chief officer of that steamer, with assaulting him on board on the 16th instant.

Complainant stated on Saturday last, the 16th instant, at 3.30 p.m., that defendant came on board with a friend, and called on the second steward for dinner. The Captain's orders were given at 12 o'clock, and when the steward had served him a plate of oysters and a glass of beer, he had given him a glass of beer, and asked him to keep dinner for himself and his friend.

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Extracts.

MY BOOKS.

WALTER WHITE.
Oh how sweet when I come home
To see my books in my library;
Gloss or wunder all choose,
One or two—so seems to me—
Thrash with echoes from the sea;
And in some my sense perceives
The harmony of forest leaves;
Here is one—bosom book—
That bubbles like a mountain brook;
Another yet is gone—still,
A sunset on a distant shore;
Endless are the scenes my room,
Described in twilight gloom;
Autumn, Winter, Summer, Spring,
With books ye changeful bring;
Something up for each emotion,
Love, or gladness, or dole;
Ye to me, instead of wife,
Instead of child—second life.

Ye at will give up your knowledge,
Such may belt a college,
Purposed in rigid ease;
Vestments of the schools;
Or gain no other information,
With an easy solution;
As thought meant, with purpose sly,
For putting off by end by end.

And leave me, after all endeavour,
In doubt of what is wise and clever,
Some of ye are as a stream
In whose depths rare jewels gleam;
Happy he who kneels to drink
Leaving o'er the steepy brink,
Catching through the current's flow
Flashes from the gems below;
A monarchs of strife and folly,
Cheaters of bold melancholy,
Gentle, most persuasive Tocobara,
Or authoritative Preachers;
Companions full of life and spirit,
Monitors who score gentle inherit;
Sometimes full of wise counsels;
Again, like a jester, japes;

Others while ye are in prime
As Quakers now, sedate and trim;
Three or four are jolly fellows;
When Time fortifies and mellows;
Some make pretences to be witty,
Others chant a stirring diry;
Suing every time and season
With a rhyme or with a reason.

Books, beloved ye are to me

An interesting family;

Ye for each's irritation

Always bring a compensation;

How still success comes or gloom;

While ye are at your roost,

Locking down from friendly nooks?

My beacon upon ye, Books!

COLD MITTUPON THE MOUNTAINS.

On we go, and the trudging becomes fatiguing labour; until, at last, Peter cries, "Courage! one effort more, and we are on the *arts!*" How the prospect of a goal picks you up! The effort is made, and we pause at the commencement of the *arts!* Here we dine, lying down on some rocks on the Italian side. By the way, I wish heartily that some competent member of the Alpine Club would direct his benevolent attention to the subject of the food to be consumed by the mountaineer on high excursions. At present the food issued for that purpose by hotels seems to be the most inedible and unenjoyable provision that could be devised for such occasions. We have cold mutton-tough, dry, stringy, tasteless; we have coarse Emmentaler cheese, and, singularly dry bread. Now the mouth is apt to get dry after such a climb as we have just had, and the food ought to be moist and palatable. With difficulty and disgust we chew palpably the dry-as-dust provisions we have, and determine to save dismaying humanity by bringing this monotonous subject forcibly before the Alpine authorities. We have a bottle of common red wine, and we reserve one bottle of champagne for the peak. As we lie on the rock dining, we look down a dizzy vertical height, and watch the delicate silver white of the great Lyskamm as a filmy vapour of fine cloud sweeps airily between us and it. One or two snow-birds whirl with a creaking cry about the snow-covered rock wall beneath us. But no time must be lost; it is late, and we have the terrible *arée* de Monte Rosa still before us. From "Studies and Romances," by H. Schlesinger.

HOW RIZA KOOLI KHAN'S EYES WERE PUT OUT.

Riza Kooli Khan, the Governor of Kazaroo, came to pay the Elches a visit. The old nobleman had a silk band over his eyes, sockets, having had his eyes put out during the late contest between the Zind and Kajr families for the throne of Persia. He began, soon after he was seated, to relate his misfortunes, and the tears actually came to my eyes at the thoughts of the old man's sufferings, when, judge of my surprise to find it was to entertain, not to distress us, he was giving the narration, and that, if spite of the revolving subject, I was compelled to smile at a tale, which in any country except Persia, would have been deemed a subject for a tragedy; but as poisons may by use become alimento, so misfortunes, however dreadful, when they are of daily occurrence, appear like common events of life. But it was the manner and feelings of the narrator that, in this instance, gave the comic effect to the tragedy of which he was the hero:—"I had been too active a partisan," said Riza Kooli Khan, "of the Kajr family, to expose myself when I fell into the hands of the rabid tribe of Zind. I looked for death, and was rather surprised at the lenity which only condemned me to lose my eyes. A stout fellow of a ferocious name as executioner of the sentence, he had in his hand a large blue knife, which he meant to make his instrument. I offered him twenty tomans if he would use a poniakhe I showed him. He refused in the most brutal manner, calling me a merciless villain, ascertaining that I had shot his brother, and that he had solicited the present chief to gratify his revenge, adding, his only regret was not being allowed to put me to death. Seeing," continued Riza Kooli Khan, "that I had no tenderness to look for from this fellow, I pretended submission, and laid myself on my back; he seemed quite pleased, tucked up his sleeves, brandished his knife, and very compositely put one knee on my chest, and was proceeding to his butchering work, as if I had been a stupid innocent lamb, that was quite content to let him do what he chose. Observing him, from this impression, off his guard, I raised one of my feet, and planting it on the pit of his stomach, sent him heels over head in a way that would have made you laugh (imitating with his foot the action to be described, and laughing heartily himself at the recollection of it). I sprang up; so did my enemy; we had a short tussle—but he was the stronger; and having knocked me down, succeeded in taking out my eyes. The pain at the moment," said the old Khan, "was lessened by the warmth occasioned by the struggle. The wounds soon healed; and when the Kajrs obtained the undisputed sovereignty of Persia, I was rewarded for my suffering in their cause. All my sons have been promoted, and I am Governor of this town and province. Here I am in affluence, and enjoying a repose to which men who can see are in this country perfect strangers. If there is a deficiency of revenue, or any real or alleged cause for which another governor would be removed, beaten, or put to death, the King says, 'Never mind, it is poor blind Riza Kooli; let him alone.' So you see, Elchez, that I have no reason to complain, being in fact better defended from misfortune by the loss of my two eyes than could be by the possession of twenty of the clearest in Persia!" and he laughed again at this second joke.—From "Sketches in Persia," by Sir John Maloe.

WOMAN'S WORK.

Nature herself, has disengaged women from fighting and from entering into the fierce contentions of the pride and crooked ways of politics. There is a silent and beautiful education which heaven intended that all alike should learn from mothers, sisters, and wives. Each house was meant to have in their gentler presence a softening and refreshing element, so that strength should train itself to be submissive, rudeness should become abashed, and coarse passions held in check by the natural influence of women.—High or low, educated or uneducated, these is the proper work of the weaker sex. And, finally, we venture to address her in the words of Lord Lyttelton:

"Seek to be good, but aim not to be great; A woman's nobler station is rest; Her fairest virtues fly from public sight; Something up for each emotion, Domestic love, or gladness, or dole: Ye to me, instead of wife, Instead of child—are second life."

"From "Political Women."

WHAT IS IN A PIECE OF WOOD.

We now part with our "old violins" with feelings not unmixed with regret; the very sums of money given for them bear witness to their strange indefinite value and importance—300 guineas is a common price for a fine Stradivarius.—The owner of the "Messie" refused 600 guineas for that unique gem, while 800 and even 1,000 guineas have been offered by some who could not get their favorites for less. Fifteen hundred acres of land in Cincinnati were on one occasion given for a Stainer; and as the city of Pittsburgh is now built upon that land, we may confidently say that this has turned out to be the heaviest price ever paid for a violin. And what is it that we pay for? A little wood, varnish, paint—a few shillings would buy all the materials: the simplest mechanical knowledge is sufficient to cut up and put together the common fiddle, which is now sold for ten or fifteen shillings, and looks to the novices so much more desirable than the "Messie" or "Puccelle," though not unlike them. Then what do we pay for? We pay for what no money can purchase again; we pay for conditions that have passed away; we pay for the inspiration of a masterless workman, and a subtle soul infused into elements which seem beggarly but have become priceless; we pay for the concentrated experience of not one life, but many, put into a curve or a fluting—for a few thin plates of wood fixed together with an instinct that is dead, but that are fitly made those slips of wood almost a living organism—in some respects more than a living organism, because immortal. There is no reason why the violin should ever wear out. It grows old with its perpetual youth. It sings over the grave of many generations. Time, that sometimes rots it a little, varnish, has no power over its antiquated furniture—it need never be battered. The Jona Carilio violin is 320 years old, and still almost without a scratch. The hard perennial substance steeped in the alkaline varnish, has well nigh turned to stone, but without losing a single quality of sweetness or resonance. The violin is the only fiddle that still lives, and lives with a fulness of life and freshness that contrasts mystically enough with the failing, sickly, and withering generations of man. Even should misfortunes bruise or break its beauty it can be endlessly restored—it is never fit for death; it survives a thousand calamities; may even cut up, dismembered, its several parts scattered through a dozen workshops and through 300 years, it lives on with a kind of metempsychosis in new forms and willlings strangely to its individuality, so that none taking up a patrol violin says—it is fine, the front is poor, the head is tame; but then, here is a Stradivarius back. Thus human in its power and pathos, and superhuman in its immortal fabric, the violin reigns the prince of all instruments, and in the hands of a Paganini or a Joachim, the joy and wonder of the civilised world.—"Old Violin," by H. R. Hawes, in *The Contemporary Review*.

LONGFELLOW.

After Tennyson, Longfellow has been the most popular poet of the day. And, though his later productions have not supported his past reputation, he still maintains that distinction. There even are not wanting people who prefer him to the Laureate. He has certainly written a melodrama and a bucolic idyll equal to, if not above, anything of the same sort that Tennyson has, or probably could, accomplish. He has written many minor pieces which can hardly be rivalled for the combination of exquisite grace and fancy which they exhibit. But here Longfellow's superiority ends. Had Tennyson not written the "Idylls" or "In Memoriam," his inferiority to his contemporary would have been manifest. But the power Tennyson displays, in these superior works of art, places him above any living contemporary. Longfellow's range is purely objective. He never attempts allegy, and if he did would probably fail in it. In the elements necessary for the execution of a heroic poem, Longfellow fails, because he has not the genius of a Shelley or a Milton, that big genius is not likely to be as profitable to mankind. Poets of the first or second-class order generally stir the mind's secret springs too profoundly to be of service to them in practical point of view. They exalt the imagination by scenes of ideal beauty never likely to be realised, and excite the mind to unprofitable yearning for the unattainable. The passions by them are roused from their depths, and the brain forced into false creation. The intellectual horizon is extended too often at the expense of the moral element. But by poets of the third order the mental forces are seldom thrown out of their symmetrical relationship. Among them are to be found the practical instructors of mankind. They enlighten the judgment, while they warm the heart. By these the elements of human nature are not disturbed by any spiritual electricity from the natural resources which springs from their healthy development. They rouse the intellect and the mind simultaneously. They generally keep the passions within the restraints of the reason. By them the domestic virtues are cherished, and morality robed in the garb of a sparkling fancy and a sportive disposition. They habituate us to derive lessons from nature at every step. They train the aesthetic sense within us to extract beauty from common-place objects, hope from gloom, and sunshine from sorrow. They ripen our affections until they exhale an aroma, which sweetens the atmosphere of life. Among such teachers, it ought to form a subject of congratulation to Longfellow, that he will ever hold a foremost place.—From "A Comparative Estimate of Modern English Poets," by J. Dovet, M.A.

WING-KEE COAL SHOP.

THE Proprietor of WING-KEE COAL Shop begs to inform the public that his Shop has been established since 1853, at Endicott Lane, and that he has always a great quantity of BEST COAL in store for sale. Gentlemen or Shipmasters wishing to patronise him, are requested to apply at his Shop.

1843 Hongkong, 16th August, 1873.

INSURANCES.

LONDON AND ORIENTAL STEAM-TRANSIT INSURANCE OFFICE.

157, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON.

ESTABLISHED 1845.

The Underwriters are authorized to accept risks on behalf of this Office, by First Class Steamers and Sailors.

A. MOLTER, Agent.

HONGKONG, 1st July, 1872.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF MANCHESTER AND LONDON.

Agents, Allgemeine Fire Assurance Company.

678 Hongkong, 28th August, 1869.

THE Undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company at Hongkong, Canton, Foochow, Shanghai, and Hang-kow, and are prepared to grant Insurances at Current Rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & CO.

1st November, 1868.

LAVERPOOL AND LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Agents, Allgemeine Fire Assurance Company.

1193 Hongkong, 27th June, 1872.

NOTICE.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE following rates will be charged in future

for SHORT PERIOD

Insurance, viz.—

Not exceeding 10 days, 1/2 of the annual rate.

Not exceeding 1 month, 1/4 do. do.

After 1 month, 1/2 do. do.

Exceeding three months, 1/2 do. do.

Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months, 1/2 do. do.

Exceeding six months, 1/2 do. do.

Above six months the full annual rate.

JARDINE, MATHERSON & CO.

Agents, Allgemeine Fire Assurance Company.

1st April, 1872.

NOTICE.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE following rates will be charged for Fire Insurance

in future

for SHORT PERIOD

Insurance, viz.—

Not exceeding 10 days, 1/2 of the annual rate.

Not exceeding 1 month, 1/4 do. do.

After 1 month, 1/2 do. do.

Exceeding three months, 1/2 do. do.

Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months, 1/2 do. do.

Exceeding six months, 1/2 do. do.

Above six months the full annual rate.

JAS. B. COUGHLIE.

Agents, Allgemeine Fire Assurance Company.

1st November, 1872.

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE following rates will be charged in future

for SHORT PERIOD

Insurance, viz.—

Not exceeding 10 days, 1/2 of the annual rate.

Not exceeding 1 month, 1/4 do. do.

After 1 month, 1/2 do. do.

Exceeding three months, 1/2 do. do.

Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months, 1/2 do. do.

Exceeding six months, 1/2 do. do.

Above six months the full annual rate.

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Agents, Allgemeine Fire Assurance Company.

1st November, 1872.

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